

From: Scott M. Johnson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Dept. of Justice,

I am writing as a concerned citizen in Washington State regarding the Microsoft / DOJ Settlement. I strongly urge you to settle the case and agree to the terms that the DOJ and Microsoft have agreed upon. As a 20 year veteran of the computer industry I have seen technology change from a unique perspective and I would like to point out some facts and opinions never mentioned by Microsoft competitors. The reality of the situation is certainly not what is portrayed by the Millions of dollars in lobbying spent by anti-Microsoft parties.

* In the computer industry, if you do not have the best product, your market share will decline until you are out of business, or you improve your product.

* The ability of a new competitor to take over a market segment can happen overnight if the product is revolutionary or has superior quality and supportability.

* The fact that Microsoft has a dominant position in the operating system market came from Quality Products that took millions of hours to create.

* This fact, combined with the effort of hundreds of thousands of programmers that adopt Microsoft technologies, because they were easy to use and employed modular coding techniques made it easy to build solutions that work for businesses. (Solutions make business more productive)

* The investment cost to build revolutionary products that are used by Millions of people is extreme... Billions of dollars to design and perfect the code to get it to a usable level. Then years of refining and optimization to produce one that works seamlessly, has the best set of functions and doesn't crash. This investment of money and man hours is rewarded in the marketplace by sales. Only through economies of scale, can a profit can be achieved.

* The government and Microsoft competitors should not determine what functionality can and can't be included in a given product.

* If a company can make a product that has the functions people need then they should be allowed to develop it and sell it without fear.

* In the future you will see a drastically different world then you see today. Thousands of people are working on killer apps, new operating systems, exotic form factors and new products that will someday blow your mind and drastically change the way you live and work.

Microsoft made many of these innovations possible,
Microsoft took the risk to invest billions of dollars making these
technologies through years of research and development.
Microsoft gives thousands of companies opportunities to make millions of
dollars developing products that work on a common platform.

Consumers have not been harmed by Microsoft,
Consumers are the ones that request the software and the features that
Microsoft builds,
Consumers are the ones that reap the benefits of software that has
innovative new features and works great together.

Because of Microsoft:
Businesses are more productive,
Consumers are more enriched,
My children will go to college.

Thank You,
Scott M. Johnson
Microsoft Corporation
Program Manager
Windows Driver Quality

See <http://www.microsoft.com/freedomtoinnovate/default.asp> for more
information I agree with.